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UNCLAS TEGUCIGALPA 001567

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SUBJECT: HONDURAS READY TO ADVANCE ON DOHA, UNEASY ABOUT G-90

REF: A) State 150176

B) Tegucigalpa 778  
C) Urs July 12 e-mail

1. (U) EconOff delivered ref A talking points to Vice Minister for External Trade Irving Guerrero on July 13. As Honduran officials have stated in the past (ref B), the GOH is eager to move forward with the Doha Round negotiations and are generally supportive of U.S. positions, but regard themselves as largely peripheral to the major conflicts which have slowed progress on the negotiations thus far.

2. (SBU) Vice Minister Guerrero expressed some concern about the formation of the G-90 group of developing countries, and the attention being paid to this group by both the USG and the European Union. He raised the fear that the focus on the G-90 will "divide poor countries into two groups", with those developing countries outside the G-90 (such as Honduras) being left out of key conversations.

3. (SBU) Regarding the selection of a successor to WTO Director General Supachai, Guerrero stated that Honduras has not yet chosen a preferred candidate, but he shared the sense (ref C) that a high ranking official with greater international clout would be preferable to a lower level official such as a former trade minister, given the crucial period ahead for the organization.

Palmer